

## Medicaid Expansion Policy Options

### Simplified Application under Affordable Care Act (ACA)

#### Vision

Health Care Authority (HCA) envisions a single streamlined electronic application for all health care coverage programs. This application will be used for individuals who apply for Medicaid, CHIP, Basic Health (if offered) and the Advanced Premium Tax Credit Subsidy program through the Exchange web portal. It will also be used for those clients who apply for Medicaid outside of the Exchange web portal.

#### Proposal

Those applying for Medicaid through the Exchange web portal will include children, pregnant women, families (parents/caretakers), and the newly eligible. They will have their eligibility determined via electronic data matches through a single application submitted through the Exchange web portal.

The single application can be either be:

- The application developed by the Health & Human Services (HHS) Secretary in accordance of the Affordable Care Act; or
- An alternative single streamlined application developed by the state and approved by the HHS Secretary.

While Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) states they are going to allow us to review the application developed by the Secretary, there is still no date on when it will be ready for review. For this reason HCA has elected to develop its own application. The application questions are needed to start programming the Exchange web portal and the new rules engine so that the system can be up and running by October 2013 in order to meet the implementation date of January 2014.

The application developed by HCA must be designed to clearly include the following information:

- Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) income questions;
- Demographic information (includes name, birth date, and SSN of each applicant);
- Citizenship, nationality, or immigration status declaration;
- Signature of applicant or authorized person;
- A way for non-applicants (i.e. guardians or protective payees) to apply for others
- Third Party Liability information; and
- Retroactive medical requests

HCA must establish procedures to submit an application in the following ways:

- Online – via the new Exchange web portal;
- By telephone;

- Via mail or facsimile; or
- Paper

### **Transformation**

HCA needs to develop both an on-line and paper application which supports the use of automated data-matching and self-attestation to verify a household's circumstances. This shift from front-end labor intensive eligibility determination to self-attestation and the use of automated data-matching systems will greatly increase the need for clients to use the on-line smart applications.

### **Description of Issues and Risks**

- CMS has not given HCA the application developed by the Secretary so HCA will develop an alternative application that will need Secretary Approval.
- Both an electronic and paper application will need to be developed.
- HCA will need to heavily promote the use of on-line applications. This will include:
  - Public announcements and other forms of advertising; and
  - Training for advocates and providers
- HCA will need to develop a way for a paper application to get into the Exchange web portal.
- Will need legislation to update the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) to support telephonic signatures.

### **Moving Forward**

HCA cannot wait for CMS but must move forward and develop a new streamlined application in preparation for the development of both the Exchange web portal and rules engine in early 2012.

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